

Mineral Industry Surveys

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MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN FEBRUARY 2006

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in February was 1.97 million metric tons (Mt), which was 22% lower than in the previous month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The significant drop in production was attributed to the month-long closure of four mines in Florida to reduce stocks of phosphate rock. Decreased sales of phosphate fertilizer by companies in Florida and Louisiana resulted in lower phosphate fertilizer production, which reduced consumption of phosphate rock (Green Markets, 2006). Total production for January and February was 24% lower than in the same period of 2005.

Phosphate rock sold or used in the United States in February was 2.23 Mt, a 16% decrease from that of January. Total used in January and February was 13% lower than in the same period of 2005. U.S. producer stocks were 4% lower than in January.

Imports of phosphate rock were estimated based on U.S. Census Bureau figures and data from the Moroccan producer, because Census suppressed some phosphate rock import data for Morocco. The Moroccan producer supplies more than 99% of the phosphate rock imported by the United States. In addition, Census trade data were not available for the current month. The USGS estimated that imports of phosphate rock have averaged about 219,000 metric tons per month in 2005.

Domestic apparent consumption for 2005 was 37.8 Mt, a slight decrease from that of 2004. Apparent consumption was based on sold or used data, plus imports minus exports.

Reference Cited

Green Markets, 2006, Phosphate: Green Markets, v. 30, no. 6, February 6, p. 6.

TABLE 1
U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks ²
2005:			
January-February	5,920	5,620	XX
February	2,860	2,790	6,040 ^r
March	3,160	3,240	5,930 ^r
April	3,000	3,160	5,850 ^r
May	3,480	3,050 ^r	6,270 ^r
June	3,100	2,810 ^r	6,560 ^r
July	3,230 ^r	3,210 ^r	6,580 ^r
August	3,340 ^r	3,190 ^r	6,660 ^r
September	3,250 ^r	2,940 ^r	7,040 ^r
October	2,850 ^r	2,670 ^r	7,280 ^r
November	2,490 ^r	2,730 ^r	7,000 ^r
December	2,380 ^r	2,580	6,780 ^r
January-December	36,200 ^r	35,200 ^r	XX
2006:			
January	2,520 ^r	2,670 ^r	6,620 ^r
February	1,970	2,230	6,370
Total	4,490	4,900	XX

^rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Quantity	Value
2005:		
January	140	5,160
February	143	6,190
March	48	1,300
April	183	8,440
May	227	11,000
June	184	8,420
July	103	4,840
August	66	1,810
September	158	5,520
October	159	6,290
November	195	7,200
December	112	4,120
January-December	1,720	70,300
Total year ³	2,630	107,000
2006: ⁴		
January	170	7,100

¹Cost, insurance, and freight values at U.S. ports.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes an estimate for data suppressed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

⁴Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3
COMPARATIVE U.S. PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS¹

(Million metric tons, unless otherwise specified)

	2004	2005	2006 ^{e, 2}
Marketable production:			
Florida and North Carolina	30.3	W	W
Idaho and Utah	5.4	W	W
Total	35.7	36.2 ^r	27.7
Sold or used by producers:			
Florida and North Carolina	30.8	W	W
Idaho and Utah	5.0	W	W
Total	35.8	35.2 ^r	30.3
Yearend stocks	7.0	6.8 ^r	6.4
Exports reported by producers	--	--	--
Average value per ton	--	--	--
Imports for consumption ^e	2.5	2.6	2.6
Average value per ton	\$36.50	\$40.87	NA
Apparent consumption ^{e, 3}	38.3	37.8 ^r	32.9

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. -- Zero.

¹Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

²Annualized data.

³Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports minus exports.